



# NC Mechanical Code

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### 100 Chapter 1 Administration

### 200 Chapter 2 Definitions

### 300 Chapter 3 General Regulations

**305.4 - Question:** We have been turned down by Inspectors for Line Set hangers (vertical copper, 7/8 od) being more than 4 ft on center, why is that?

**Answer:** The 2012 NCMC table 305.4 shows on 1 ¼ copper tubing and smaller; 6 ft spacing, and for vertical 10 ft

See Attachment

**306.3 - Question:** I am installing an appliance in the attic. If I install it adjacent to the opening, where it can be serviced standing on the pull down or a portable ladder, will that be code compliant?



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**Answer:** Yes, Section 306.3 Exception #1 states the passageway and service space are not required where the appliance can be serviced and removed through the opening.

Since this exception is under the section for appliances installed in attics, the intent is to access them via ladder (permanent or portable).

306.3 Appliances in attics. Attics containing appliances shall be provided with an opening and unobstructed passageway large enough to allow removal of the largest appliance. The passageway shall not be less than 30 inches (762 mm) high and 22 inches (559 mm) wide and not more than 20 feet (6096 mm) in length measured along the centerline of the passageway from the opening to the appliance. The passageway shall have continuous solid flooring not less than 24 inches (610 mm) wide. A level service space not less than 30 inches (762 mm) deep and 30 inches (762 mm) wide shall be present at the front or service side of the appliance. The clear access opening dimensions shall be a minimum of 20 inches by 30 inches (508 mm by 762 mm), and large enough to allow removal of the largest appliance.

Exceptions:

1. The passageway and level service space are not required where the appliance is capable of being serviced and removed through the required opening.
2. Where the passageway is not less than 6 feet (1829 mm) high for its entire length, the passageway shall not be limited in length.

**306.5 - Question:** Does the requirements of 306.5 for roof access apply to equipment installed on the side of the building?

**Answer:** Where equipment is installed on the side of the building, normally an exhaust fan for a hood; Section 306.5 does not apply. The code does not have access requirements for equipment installed on the side of the building.



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**307.2.3 - Question:** If I install an 80% furnace with A/C coil in the attic, is the pan required to be under the furnace and the coil or just the coil?

**Answer:** The pan is only required under coils on which condensate will occur.

**307.2.3 - Question:** I am installing an airhandler above a lay in ceiling. There is not much room, am I required to install a secondary pan? Are there other options?

**Answer:** A secondary pan is not required if you utilize one of the other options in section 307.2.3 NCMC.

307.2.3 Auxiliary and secondary drain systems. In addition to the requirements of Section 307.2.1, where damage to any building components could occur as a result of overflow from the equipment primary condensate removal system, one of the following auxiliary protection methods shall be provided for each cooling coil or fuel-fired appliance that produces condensate:

1. An auxiliary drain pan with a separate drain shall be provided under the coils on which condensation will occur. The auxiliary pan drain shall discharge to a conspicuous point of disposal to alert occupants in the event of a stoppage of the primary drain. The pan shall have a minimum depth of 1 1/2 inches (38 mm), shall not be less than 3 inches (76 mm) larger than the unit or the coil dimensions in width and length and shall be constructed of corrosion-resistant material. Galvanized sheet steel pans shall have a minimum thickness of not less than 0.0236 inch (0.6010 mm) (No. 24 gage). Nonmetallic pans shall have a minimum thickness of not less than 0.0625 inch (1.6 mm).
2. A separate overflow drain line shall be connected to the drain pan provided with the equipment. Such overflow drain shall discharge to a conspicuous point of disposal to alert occupants in the event of a stoppage of the primary drain. The overflow drain line shall connect to the drain pan at a higher level than the primary drain connection.



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3. An auxiliary drain pan without a separate drain line shall be provided under the coils on which condensate will occur. Such pan shall be equipped with a water-level detection device conforming to UL 508 that will shut off the equipment served prior to overflow of the pan. The auxiliary drain pan shall be constructed in accordance with Item 1 of this section.

4. A water-level detection device conforming to UL 508 shall be provided that will shut off the equipment served in the event that the primary drain is blocked. The device shall be installed in the primary drain line, upstream of the primary drain line trap, the overflow drain line, or in the equipment-supplied drain pan, located at a point higher than the primary drain line connection and below the overflow rim of such pan.

**307.2.3.1 - Question:** How does section 307.2.3.1 apply to mini splits in single family and apartments?

**Answer:** Section 307.2.3.1 NCMC requires water level monitoring devices on downflow units and all other coils that do not have a secondary drain. RTUs and Mini Splits do not have a secondary drain and provisions can not be made to install an auxiliary drain pan. A water level monitoring device installed in the primary drain pan would be required, even for Mini Splits; if damage to the building components could occur from the overflow of the primary drain pan. 307.2.3.1 Water-level monitoring devices. On downflow units and all other coils that do not have a secondary drain or provisions to install a secondary or auxiliary drain pan, a water-level monitoring device shall be installed inside the primary drain pan. This device shall shut off the equipment served in the event that the primary drain becomes restricted. Devices installed in the drain line shall not be permitted.

**307.2.3.1 - Question:** I was turned down for not having water level switch on a RTU. Where is this in the code?



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**Answer:** Section 307.2.3.1 NCMC requires water level monitoring devices on downflow units and all other coils that do not have a secondary drain. RTUs only have the one drain, there is not secondary drain. This section requires a water level monitoring device to be installed inside the primary drain pan.

307.2.3.1 Water-level monitoring devices. On downflow units and all other coils that do not have a secondary drain or provisions to install a secondary or auxiliary drain pan, a water-level monitoring device shall be installed inside the primary drain pan. This device shall shut off the equipment served in the event that the primary

drain becomes restricted. Devices installed in the drain line shall not be permitted.

**307.2.3 - Question:** Is it permissible to route the primary and secondary condensate drains so they discharge at the same location? i.e. run them both to the same janitor's sink.

**Answer:** No, if the secondary drain is a code required drain per section 307.2.3, it would need to discharge at a conspicuous location. While the janitor's sink maybe in an area the occupants normally see, having both drains discharge in the same location would produce confusion as to which one discharge should not be coming out of.

**307.2.3 - Question:** What is the intent of “discharge to a conspicuous point of disposal to alert occupants in the event of a stoppage of the primary drain” per 307.2.3 #1?

**Answer:** The intent of this code section is for the secondary drain to discharge where is it readily observable to the building occupants during normal activities



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**307.2.1 - Question:** Section 307.2.1 prohibits condensate from discharging into a street, alley or other areas so as to cause a nuisance. What are these nuisance areas?

**Answer:** Condensate should not discharge onto sidewalks, driveways, patios, or similar paved walking surfaces. The continuous flow of condensate could produce slick algae or if the condensate is from a condensing gas appliance or an air conditioner that operates all year, it could produce ice in the colder months. This would present a hazard to people.

**307.2.3.2 - Question:** Can styrofoam blocks be used to support HVAC equipment in the pan?

**Answer:** Section 307.2.3.2 states the supports shall be water resistant and approved. Styrofoam packing could not be accepted for supports, but the high density blocks manufactured for that purpose could be accepted.

In one- and two- family dwellings: The clearance from the airhandler/furnace would need to be verified. The equipment would need to have zero clearance on the side in contact with the block.

In commercial applications: The clearance from the airhandler/furnace would need to be verified. The equipment would need to have zero clearance on the side in contact with the block. Blocks to be installed in plenums would need to be plenum rated. The foam blocks would need to have a flame spread index of not more than 75 and a smoke developed index of not more than 450 per 2603.3 NCBC.

## **400 Chapter 4 Ventilation**

**403.3 - Question:** Is exhaust required in private garages for apartments?



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**Answer:** If the garage is truly a private garage, only accessed from the apartment is serves, no exhaust would be required.

Table 403.3 requires the following:

Private dwellings, single and multiple

Garages, common for multiple units 0.75

The "common for multiple units" is the keywords. If the garage can be accessed by more than one unit, then exhaust would be required.

**403.3 - Question:** Are ventless bath fans allowed by code?

**Answer:** No, Table 403.3 requires Toilet Rooms and Bathrooms to be exhausted.

While this requirement helps with odor, the main concern is moisture control.

The ventless or ductless bath fans on the market only filter the air, via a charcoal packet that must be replaced routinely. They do not remove moisture.

## **500 Chapter 5 Exhaust Systems**

**501.2.2 - Question:** Does bathroom exhaust terminations require screens?

**Answer:** Yes, Section 501.2.2 requires screens for all exhaust openings that terminate outdoors. Dryer exhaust ducts are specifically exempt under 504.4.

Terminations that would require screens would include, but not be limited to; bath fan exhaust, range hood exhaust, microwave exhaust, etc.

501.2.2 Exhaust opening protection. Exhaust openings that terminate outdoors shall be protected with corrosion-resistant screens, louvers or grilles. Openings in screens, louvers and grilles shall be sized not less than 1/4 inch (6 mm) and not larger than 1/2 inch (13 mm). Openings shall be protected against local weather conditions. Outdoor openings located in exterior walls shall meet the provisions for exterior wall opening protectives in accordance with the International Building Code.





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**501.2.1 - Question:** What is the minimum distance between an environmental air exhaust and a direct vent appliance air intake?

**Answer:** Section 501.2.1 #3

For all environmental air exhaust: 3 feet (914 mm) from property lines; 3 feet (914 mm) from operable openings into buildings for all occupancies other than Group U, and 10 feet (3048 mm) from mechanical air intakes. Such exhaust shall not be considered hazardous or noxious.

**504.5 - Question:** What defines a closet when determining if make up air is required for a clothes dryer?

**Answer:** Section 504.5 requires makeup air to be provided for closets that are designed for the installation of clothes dryers. The minimum habitable room allowed by the building code is 70 sq ft, if the room is less than 70 sq ft it would be considered a closet and makeup air would need to be provided.

504.5 Makeup air. Where a closet is designed for the installation of a clothes dryer, an opening having an area of not less than 100 square inches (0.0645 m<sup>2</sup>) shall be provided in the closet enclosure or makeup air shall be provided by other approved means.

**504.6.1 - Question:** What is the minimum dryer duct thickness? 28 or 30 gauge?

**Answer:** Section 504.6.1 NCMC, states the duct shall be of metal and have a minimum thickness of 0.016 inch (0.4 mm). There are several nationally recognized gauge charts that will state 0.016 inch (0.4 mm) in galvanized as 30 gauge. This question was asked to NCDOL and they reference the SMACNA manual which has a gauge chart for galvanized sheet metal in Appendix A. That chart states it would be 28 gauge. Per NCDOL, 28 gauge is the minimum thickness for galvanized sheet metal for dryer ducts.





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**504.6.1 - Question:** Can a dryer duct be 4 inch square or oval duct?

**Answer:** No, Section 504.6.1 states, "The exhaust duct size shall be 4 inches nominal in diameter." This requires a 4 inch round duct, no smaller and no larger. The 4 inch round is the industry standard that manufacturers use when designing their machines. If the duct is too small, the machine will not dryer properly and could over heat. If the duct is too large, the velocity of the air will decrease and the lint will fall out of the air stream.

**504.6.5 - Question:** I identified that I installed 2 elbows on the dryer system, but I was turned down because I didn't identify the equivalent length, is this correct?

**Answer:** Section 504.6.5 states the equivalent length of the dryer duct shall be identified on a permanent label or tag.

504.6.5 Length identification. The equivalent length of the exhaust duct shall be identified on a permanent label or tag. The label or tag shall be located within 6 feet (1829 mm) of the exhaust duct connection.

**507.2.1.1 - Question:** Are Type I hoods required to be interlocked with appliances?

**Answer:** Yes, Section 507.2.1.1 requires the exhaust fan to automatically activate when the cooking operations occur. This can be done with the appliances themselves interlocked with the hood or with a heat sensor.

Note, the performance test required by Section 507.16 requires the operation to be tested.

507.2.1.1 Operation. Type I hood systems shall be designed and installed to automatically activate the exhaust fan whenever cooking operations occur. The activation of the exhaust fan shall occur through an interlock with the cooking appliances, by means of heat sensors or by means of other approved methods.



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507.16 Performance test. A performance test shall be conducted upon completion and before final approval of the installation of a ventilation system serving commercial cooking appliances. The test shall verify the rate of exhaust airflow required by Section 507.13, makeup airflow required by Section 508 and proper operation as specified in this chapter. The permit holder shall furnish the necessary test equipment and devices required to perform the tests.

**507.2.3 - Question:** Are there any hood requirements for a domestic range installed in a breakroom?

**Answer:** The code allows up to 2 domestic ranges installed in dwelling units, churches, schools, day care centers, break areas and similar installations. The code exempts these areas because of their frequency of use, duration and the nature of the cooking. A breakroom will not have the same use as catering kitchen. The code does not specify the fuel source for the domestic ranges, gas or electric.

507.2.3 Domestic cooking appliances used for commercial purposes. Domestic cooking appliances utilized for commercial purposes shall be provided with Type I or Type II hoods as required for the type of appliances and processes in accordance with Sections 507.2, 507.2.1 and 507.2.2.

Exception: A maximum of two domestic ranges installed in dwelling units, churches, schools, day care centers, break areas and similar installations.

## **600 Chapter 6 Duct Systems**

**601.2 - Question:** I was turned down on plan review for not providing returns in each of the rooms. The notes said corridors could not be used as a return path.

**Answer:** Section 601.2 prohibits using corridors as supply, return, exhaust, relief or ventilation air paths. Not providing returns in the rooms will force the air to move to the corridor to return back to the HVAC equipment. Rooms such as toilet rooms, bathrooms, dressing rooms etc, that open directly onto the corridor; can



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use the corridor as a source of makeup air. Note, these type of rooms will have a form of exhaust. Nothing prohibits conditioning the corridor.

601.2 Air movement in egress elements. Corridors shall not serve as supply, return, exhaust, relief or ventilation air ducts.

Exceptions:

1. Use of a corridor as a source of makeup air for exhaust systems in rooms that open directly onto such corridors, including toilet rooms, bathrooms, dressing rooms, smoking lounges and janitor closets, shall be permitted, provided that each such corridor is directly supplied with outdoor air at a rate greater than the rate of makeup air taken from the corridor.
2. Where located within a dwelling unit, the use of corridors for conveying return air shall not be prohibited.
3. Where located within tenant spaces of 1,000 square feet (93 m<sup>2</sup>) or less in area, use of corridors for conveying return air is permitted.
4. Incidental air movement from pressurized rooms within health care facilities, provided that the corridor is not the primary source of supply or return to the room.

**602.2 - Question:** If a building is wood construction, can the above ceiling plenum be constructed of wood? Section 602.2 NCMC states the plenum enclosure shall be constructed of materials permitted for the type of construction.

**Answer:** We reached out to NCDOL for an interpretation on this. While Section 602.2 did state the plenum enclosure was permitted to be of materials for the type of construction; Section 602.2.1 then stated materials within plenums shall be non-combustible or shall have a flame spread index of not more than 25 and a smoke developed index of not more than 50.

Dan Dittman and NCDOL determined the plenum enclosure cannot be constructed of wood, even if the building is of wood construction. He admits Section 602.2 is



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written poorly. The updated section in the 2015 IMC is written more clearly and has the same requirements as 602.2.1.

602.2 Construction. Plenum enclosures shall be constructed of materials permitted for the type of construction classification of the building.

## **700 Chapter 7 Combustion Air**

## **800 Chapter 8 Chimneys & Vents**

## **900 Chapter 9 Specific Appliances**

## **1000 Chapter 10 Boilers & Water Heaters**

## **1100 Chapter 11 Refrigeration**

## **1200 Chapter 12 Hydronic Systems**

## **1300 Chapter 13 Fuel Oil Piping**

## **1400 Chapter 14 Solar Systems**

## **Policy**

**Policy - Question:** Who inspects the firewrap on dryers? The Mechanical or Building inspector?

**Answer:** The Building Inspector



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**Policy - Question:** Can the corridor wrap around an airhandler so dampers are not required, if the airhandler only serves the corridor?

**Answer:** Yes, after discussing the issue with Jeff Vernon. The following interpretation was agreed upon:

1. The unit can only serve the corridor.
2. Only the unit serving the corridor can occupy the space.
3. This would not be allowed in an exit passageway.

## Other

**Other - Question:** Is it permissible to route refrigerant or condensate line in a residential elevator shaft? (single family)

**Answer:** We cannot find any code that prohibits routing refrigerant or condensate lines in a elevator shaft in a single family home. If the manufacturer of the elevator doesn't prohibit it, then we see no reason it would not be allowed.

**Other - Question:** Do contractors have to install zone systems on new structures?

**Answer:** The Mechanical Code, section 312 points to ASHRAE (ACCA for residential) for calculating a structures heating and cooling loads. The State Board of Examiners rules state: (newsletter)

21 NCAC 50 .0505 GENERAL SUPERVISION AND STANDARD OF COMPETENCE

(d) Every newly installed residential heating system, air conditioning system or both shall be designed and installed to maintain a maximum temperature differential of 4 degrees Fahrenheit room-to-room and floor to floor. On multilevel structures, contractors are required to either provide a separate HVAC system for each floor or to install automatically controlled zoning equipment for each level with individual thermostats on each level to control the temperature



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for that level. The seasonal adjustment needed to maintain the 4 degree Fahrenheit room-to-room and floor-to floor maximum temperature differential shall not be accomplished through the use of manual dampers.

(e) All licensed HVAC contractors are required to perform a thorough room-by-room load calculation for all new residential structures prior to installing heating systems, air conditioning systems, or both which calculations shall be specific to the location and orientation where the HVAC system or equipment is to be installed. A written record of the system and equipment sizing information shall be provided to the owner or general contractor upon request and a copy shall be maintained in the job file of the licensee for a minimum of six (6) years.

(f) When either a furnace, condenser, or air handler in an existing residential heating or air conditioning system is replaced, the licensed HVAC contractor is required to perform a minimum of a whole house block load calculation. When a furnace, condenser or air handler in a residential heating or air conditioning system is replaced, it is the responsibility of the licensee to ensure that all systems and equipment are properly sized. The licensee may utilize industry standards, reference materials, evaluation of the structure, and load calculations. A written record of the system and equipment sizing information shall be provided to the homeowner, owner or general contractor upon request and a copy shall be maintained in the job file of the licensee for a minimum of six (6) years. If a load calculation was not performed or if a load calculation was performed and it is later determined by the Board that the unit installed was undersized or oversized, the installation will be considered as evidence of incompetence.

**Energy Code 503.2.11 - Question:** I want to install some heaters on our restaurant patio to blow warm air, so the people can be more comfortable out there. Would this be allowed?



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**Answer:** Per the NCECC section 503.2.11, heating outside the building shall be a radiant system. In addition these systems shall be controlled by an occupancy sensing device or a timer switch (timer cannot have a override on switch).

503.2.11 Heating outside a building. Systems installed to provide heat outside a building shall be radiant systems. Such heating systems shall be controlled by an occupancy sensing device or a timer switch, so that the system is automatically deenergized when no occupants are present.

**Energy Code Section 503.2.8 - Question:** The table in section 503.2.8 of the energy code requires 1.5 inch insulation on refrigerant lines, where does this apply?

**Answer:** Section 503.2.8 NCECC requires 1.5 inch insulation on refrigerant lines and there are a few exceptions, the most used is:

6. Refrigerant suction piping located in conditioned space is not required to be insulated other than as may be necessary for preventing the formation of condensation.

Once the refrigerant piping passes through the thermal envelope of the building it is inside the conditioned space and would only require insulation to prevent condensation.

Footnote "B" provides an equation for insulation not equal to  $0.27 \text{ Btu} \cdot \text{inch/h} \cdot \text{ft}^2$  to determine the minimum pipe thickness. If the insulation has a greater value than 0.27, the minimum thickness would be less than 1.5 inches. However, if the insulation has a value less than 0.27, the minimum thickness would be more than 1.5 inches.

Please note: This requirement is in Chapter 5 of the NCECC and would not apply to apartments constructed under the residential requirements of Chapter 4 of the NCECC.





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**Other - Question:** Can the insulation of the flex be pulled up to insulate the boots?

**Answer:** Yes, there are limits. If the insulation is pulled so tight it compresses the insulation or rips the out jacket. Some manufacturers are oversizing the diameter of the insulation to specifically allow this.

**Other - Question:** Can a vent be installed in the condensate line between the trap and the coil it serves?

**Answer:** The question was sent to Dan Dittman at NCDOL. The response was there is no code basis to disapprove this installation. He acknowledged it is not a good practice and feels if the units are not draining properly the manufacturer needs to address this issue. The code refers you to the installation instructions for trapping requirements and several manufacturers installation instructions state, "trap per local code." It is a circle.

**Other - Question:** Can a return grill box be fed through another return grill box?

**Answer:** After researching and discussing with NCDOL, there is nothing in the code to prevent this type of installation. If we would receive complaints about the performance of a system, we would direct these to the licensing board for enforcement.

**Other - Question:** Can a plumber run the hydronic under floor piping for heating?

**Answer:** No, This is a heating application and would require the installer to have a H-1 license.



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**Manufacturer's Installation Instructions - Question:** Am I required to use screws when assembling B-vent?

**Answer:** Most manufacturer's prohibit the use of screws on B-Vent, except for the attachment to the appliance. None that we found required screws for the joints; several provided the option to the contractor to use a 1/4 or 3/8 screws. In no case can the inner liner be penetrated. If the contractor decides to use screws, they will need to provide the installation manual for the B-Vent at the time of inspection.

**Other - Question:** Why are Hookah lounges treated as smoking lounges? And why can I not naturally ventilate the space?

**Answer:** NCMC Section 403.3 reads "...Ventilation rates for occupancies not represented in Table 403.3 shall be those for a listed occupancy classification that is most similar in terms of occupant density, activities and building construction; or shall be determined by an approved engineering analysis..."

Effective Jan 1, 2016, the NCFC added Section 310.9, requiring Hookah Lounges to comply with Section 403.3 NCMC.

See attached

**Other - Question:** I am changing out an 80% furnace in a crawlspace. The existing furnace is vented by a power exhauster on the foundation wall. Can I use the power exhauster to vent the new furnace?

**Answer:** This will be determined by the manufacturer's installation instructions. Some manufacturers prohibit or place limits (either distance or specific type) on the use of power exhausters.



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**Other - Question:** If a hood is removed, can the grease duct be capped off and left in place?

**Answer:** Yes, If the wrap or shaft is intact, then the duct can be capped off.

**NCECC - 503.2.9.3 - Question:** I keep hearing about Appendix 5 of the energy code, is it required? If so, when?

**Answer:** Appendix 5 is a required document HVAC installations at the final on commercial projects.

This document must be completed by a NC licensed design professional. In the event the project does not have a design professional, like for like change out; the contractor is permitted to complete the form.

To give our customers proper notice of this requirement, Mecklenburg County Code Enforcement will require this form for all projects that is permitted on or after July 1, 2016. The form can be given to the inspector at final, or a more preferable method is for it to be upload prior to the final inspection, similar to how hood certifications are handled.

503.2.9.3 System installation statement. A North Carolina licensed design professional shall prepare and sign the Statement of Compliance –HVAC System Installation (Appendix 5). This statement shall be submitted to the code official and the facility owner.

Exception: The HVAC contractor will be allowed to prepare the Statement of Compliance when a building permit is issued for a project without the seal of a licensed design professional as allowed by an exception under NC State Building Administrative Code and Policies: Section 204.3.5.

**2014 NEC - Question:** What are the new access requirements for duct heaters?

**Answer:** There are new access requirements for duct heaters in the 2014 NEC that go into effect April 1, 2016.



# NC Mechanical Code

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424.66

(B) Limited Access. Where the enclosure is located in a space above a ceiling, all of the following shall apply:

- (1) The enclosure shall be accessible through a lay-in type ceiling or an access panel(s).
- (2) The width of the working space shall be the width of the enclosure or a minimum of 762 mm (30 in.), whichever is greater.
- (3) All doors or hinged panels shall open to at least 90 degrees.
- (4) The space in front of the enclosure shall comply with the depth requirements of Table 110.26(A)(1). A horizontal ceiling T-bar shall be permitted in this space.

**2015 Residential Code - M1503.4 - Question:** Can you now use gravity dampers on makeup air to residential hoods? I heard there was a code change.

**Answer:** The 2015 International Residential Code changed the language and now allows gravity dampers. After discussing this code change, and taking into consideration that the change will be in North Carolina's next code cycle; we have decided to accept this as an alternate method. This change was only in the 2015 IRC, it only applies to one- and two-family homes and townhouses. This will not apply to apartments or condos. If the manufacturer of the hood requires an electric damper, then that requirement will take precedence. The section also requires the dampers to be accessible for inspection, service, repair and replacement.

2015 IRC

M1503.4 Makeup air required. Exhaust hood systems capable of exhausting in excess of 400 cubic feet per minute (0.19 m<sup>3</sup> /s) shall be mechanically or naturally provided with makeup air at a rate approximately equal to the exhaust air rate. Such makeup air systems shall be equipped with not less than one damper. Each damper shall be a gravity damper or an electrically operated damper that



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automatically opens when the exhaust system operates. Dampers shall be accessible for inspection, service, repair and replacement without removing permanent construction or any other ducts not connected to the damper being inspected, serviced, repaired or replaced.

**Policy - Question:** We would like to use Reflectix's bubble duct insulation. It has an R-8 value, would Mecklenburg County accept this?

**Answer:** After reviewing the product, we would accept it conditionally. The product itself seems very sound. The max temp rating, smoke development, fire spread; it meets all the required standards in section 604.3 NCMC.

The installation requires the use of a spacing material to achieve a .75 inch air space. This spacing material has specific intervals it must be installed at to achieve the R-value. We would require an IBA to inspect this spacing material before it is covered up. Inspecting the spacing material would be an additional inspection outside the normal sequence of inspections.

Attached is the spec sheet for the Reflectix Bubble Duct Insulation.

604.3 Coverings and linings. Coverings and linings, including adhesives when used, shall have a flame spread index not more than 25 and a smoke-developed index not more than 50, when tested in accordance with ASTM E 84 or UL 723, using the specimen preparation and mounting procedures of ASTM E 2231. Duct coverings and linings shall not flame, glow, smolder or smoke when tested in accordance with ASTM C 411 at the temperature to which they are exposed in service. The test temperature shall not fall below 250°F (121°C).

**Other - Question:** What is the policy about using a smoke detector to shut down the airhandler in an apartment?

**Answer:** This is not a policy, it is an accepted alternate method. The code requires a dynamic damper listed to UL555C. At the time this method was approved, they did not produce a dynamic damper listed to UL555C. This was an



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alternate that was agreed upon between Mecklenburg County Code Enforcement and NCDOL, that would allow the use of a static damper. The original interpretation is attached.

**Manufacturer's Installation Instructions - Question:** I am requesting temporary heat, but the manufacture's warranty states the warranty if voided on the equipment if I use it for temporary heat. Can you help me?

**Answer:** The temporary heat is a service we provide for qualifying projects. We have no control over the manufacturer and their warranty policies.

**Manufacturer's Installation Instructions - Question:** The clearances for the first 3 feet of ductwork on a furnace, where does this begin? The outlet of the furnace or the A/C coil?

**Answer:** Unless the manufacturer's installation instructions stated the outlet of the furnace, the 3 feet would begin at the outlet of the coil. It would be considered an extension of the assembly.